

are respectfully traversed.

In response to the subject Office Action, claims 1, 7-9, 8, 17, 24, and 31 are amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. A Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the claims is included herewith.

Claims 1, 3-9, 12-17, 20-24, 27-31 and 34-38 are pending and rejected. Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 are independent claims. Claims 3-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1; claims 12-16 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 9; claims 20-23 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 17; claims 27-30 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 24; and claims 34-38 depend from claim 31.

Hsiao discloses a device and method for processing multimedia messages. The Hsiao apparatus includes a processing device shown in Figure 1. A functional block diagram of the Hsiao apparatus is shown in Figure 2.

Horiuchi discloses a transmitter-receiver for electronic mail that provides convenience to a user receiving mail services from various mail service providers at different terminals and different places. More particularly, Horiuchi discloses a conversion result retaining unit 405 which stores the rule of interfaces of each mail spool of mail spool group 108. Further, Horiuchi discloses a table, as shown in Fig. 7, used to store the attribute or property of mail.

The combination of Hsiao and Horiuchi is a device and method for processing multimedia messages and includes a transmitter-receiver for electronic mail that provides convenience to a user receiving mail services from various mail service providers at different terminals and different places".

Each of claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 of the present application recites (using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) "storing each state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the terminal devices, wherein each state stored in said status memory means indicates whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices".

As discussed above, the state of the electronic mail is different than the attribute or property of mail, and different than the rule of interfaces as disclosed by Horiuchi.

The above-mentioned dependent claims of the present application recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 3/1 recites "a process table storing a

process to be applied to the electronic mail after the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices".

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

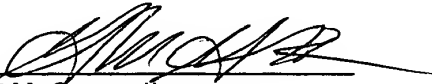
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE  
IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function, said telephone capable of connecting with at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said telephone comprising:
  - access means for accessing to the mail server;
  - a mail memory [for] storing an electronic mail which is sent to one user downloaded from the mail server through the access means;
  - a mail status memory [for] storing each [status] state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the terminal devices, wherein each state stored in said status memory means [stores] indicates whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and
  - transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory to one of the terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail managing function is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing function integrately manages the electronic mail based on the status of the electronic mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices. *state*
3. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:
  - a process table [for] storing a process to be applied to the electronic mail after the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices.
4. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 3, said process to be applied to the electronic mail includes deleting the electronic mail and keeping the electronic mail.
5. (AS UNAMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:
  - emergency process means for judging whether or not a priority process is necessary based on the electronic mail received from each of the terminal devices and for executing an

access to the mail server when the priority process is executed.

6. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A telephone with an electronic mail managing function according to Claim 1, said telephone further comprising:

an identifier memory for storing an identifier of an terminal device to be connected, permits an access from the terminal device in case that the identifier coincides with the stored identifier.

7. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A mail managing method in a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said method comprising:

a reading process of reading mail which is sent to one user stored in the mail server;

a storing process of storing the mail read in the reading process ;

a display process of displaying a [status] state of the mail stored in the storing process for each of the terminal devices, wherein said [status] state includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing process to one of the terminal devices, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the mail managing method integratedly manages the mail based on a [status] state of the mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

8. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program [used for] executed by a mail managing apparatus capable of transmitting/receiving mail data to/from at least a mail server and a plurality of terminal devices, said program when executed by the mail managing apparatus executing the processes comprising:

a reading process of reading a mail which is sent to one user stored in the mail server;

a storing process of storing the mail read in the reading process;

a display process of displaying a [status] state of the mail stored in the storing process for each of the terminal devices, wherein said [status] state includes whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices; and

a transmission process of transmitting the mail stored in the storing process to one of

the terminal devices, wherein the mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the mail managing apparatus integratedly manages the mail server based on the [status] state of the mail corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

9. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to one predetermined address; [and]

a mail memory unit storing the received electronic mail;

mail status memory means for storing each [status] state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein the each [status] state of the mail status memory means indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the terminal device; and],

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices[,]; and [comprising].

a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by one of the plurality of terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus integratedly manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail [status] state corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

12. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 9 further comprising:

process specifying means for specifying, for each terminal device, how the electronic mail transmitted to the terminal device should be processed.

13. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim

12 further comprising:

means for receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device; and  
means for transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

14. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said electronic managing apparatus is emergency processing means for judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail and, if judged to be affirmative, executing access to the mail server.

15. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 14 further comprising:

identifier memory means for storing therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices, and permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to the stored identifier.

16. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided in a telephone.

17. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic mail managing method in an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address, comprising:

receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to one predetermined address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit;

storing in a status memory unit each [status] state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each [status] state of the status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, and transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response

to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices, and wherein the electronic mail managing method integrally manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail [status] state corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

20. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information specifying for each terminal device how the electronic mail transmitted to the respective terminal devices should be processed.

21. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device;  
and  
transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

22. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 21 further comprising:

judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail; and  
executing access to the mail server, if judged to be affirmative.

23. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing method according to Claim 17 further comprising:

permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to a stored identifier, based on the information of an identifier memory unit which stores therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices.

24. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A storage medium storing a program executing [an] electronic mail management in an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of terminal devices, the program when executed by the information processing

apparatus executing the functions comprising:

receiving an electronic mail sent to one predetermined address from a mail server which stores therein the electronic mail addressed to an address;

storing the received electronic mail in a memory unit;

storing in a status memory unit each [status] state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each [status] state indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail management for each terminal devices has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

transmitting the electronic mail stored in the memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said one of the plurality of terminal devices, wherein the electronic mail management is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and wherein the electronic mail management integrately manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail [status] state corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

27. (AS UNAMENDED) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

processing the received electronic mail based on a process specifying information specifying for each terminal device how the electronic mail transmitted to the terminal device should be processed.

28. (AS UNAMENDED) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device;

and

transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

29. (AS UNAMENDED) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 28 further comprising:

judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail; and



executing access to the mail server, if judged to be affirmative.

30. (AS UNAMENDED) A program of the storage medium according to Claim 24 further comprising:

permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to a stored identifier, based on the information of an identifier memory unit which stores therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices.

31. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic mail managing system comprising:  
an electronic mail managing apparatus capable of communicating with a mail server which stores therein an electronic mail sent to an address; and

a plurality of terminal devices capable of communicating with the electronic mail managing apparatus; and

wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit receiving from the mail server an electronic mail addressed to one predetermined address;

a mail memory unit storing therein the received electronic mail;

mail status memory means for storing each [status] state of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit so as to correspond to each of the plurality of the terminal devices, wherein each [status] state of the mail status memory unit indicates whether or not the electronic mail received by the electronic mail managing apparatus for each terminal device has been transmitted to the associated terminal device; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the electronic mail stored in the mail memory unit and received thereof from the mail server to one of the plurality of terminal devices in response to an access made by said terminal device, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is provided logically between the mail server and the plurality of terminal devices and wherein the electronic mail management apparatus integrately manages the electronic mail based on the electronic mail [status] state corresponding to each of the terminal devices.

34. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:

process specifying means for specifying, for each terminal device, how the electronic

mail transmitted to the respective terminal devices should be processed.

35. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:  
means for receiving the electronic mail from each terminal device; and  
means for transmitting the received electronic mail to the mail server.

36. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic managing apparatus further comprising:  
emergency processing means for judging whether or not a preference process is necessary based on the received electronic mail and, if judged to be affirmative, executing access to the mail server.

37. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus further comprising:  
identifier memory means for storing therein identifiers of the plurality of terminal devices, and permitting access from the terminal device corresponding to the stored identifier.

38. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic mail managing system according to Claim 31, wherein the electronic mail managing apparatus is a telephone.